

Community College to Career Fund Act
Senator Al Franken and Senator Tammy Duckworth

Hundreds of thousands of jobs around the country are currently unfilled because employers can't find qualified applicants. This is known as the "skills gap". By 2018, 63% of the more than 46 million jobs that will need to be filled in the U.S will require at least some postsecondary education.¹ What's more, as the economy continues to evolve, so will the jobs. Workers will have to retrofit their current skills, acquire and apply interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, or be able to engage in non-routine tasks.

The Community College to Career Fund Act. The Community College to Career Fund established by this new legislation will help create and expand partnerships between two-year community and technical colleges and employers to train millions of Americans for jobs in high-demand industries, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and information technology.

About the Act:

- Creates a 3-year competitive grant program administered by the Department of Labor.
- Partnerships between employers or industry groups and two-year educational programs at community, technical, 4-year, or tribal non-profit colleges would be eligible to create programs to apply for grants.
- The public-private partnership would fund job training and job training-related programs, such as registered apprenticeships, on-the-job training opportunities, and paid internships for low-income students that allow them to simultaneously earn credit for learning in an in-demand, high-skill field and gain on-the-job experience with employers.
- In an effort to get middle and high school students more involved in skills training this bill allows K -12 educational institutions, in cooperation with 2 year trade or community colleges, as "allowable" partners.
- The bill would also encourage partnerships that provide direct hiring opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment, and veterans and their families.

Endorsements:

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT),
National Skills Coalition,
American Association of Community Colleges,
Precision Machined Products Association (PMPA),
Precision Metal Forming Association,
North America Die Casting Association,
National Tooling and Machine Association,
Third Way and Opportunity Nation,
AMT The Association for Manufacturing Technology,
Aeronautical repair Station Association (ARSA),
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association (ACPPA) ,
Society for Maintenance & Reliability Professionals (SMRP),
Aviation technician Education Council (ATEC),
Associated Equipment Distributors

¹ According to a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
<https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/HelpWanted.ExecutiveSummary.pdf>
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Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Enterprise Minnesota
Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Minnesota High Tech Association
Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association
Minnesota Business Partnership
Minnesota Rural Health Association
Minnesota Hospital Association
Care Providers MN
Top Tool
EJ Ajax Metal Forming Solutions
Minnesota State
Saint Paul College
Northeast Higher Education District
St. Cloud Technical and Community College
HealthForce Minnesota